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An Inaugural Dissertation

(On)

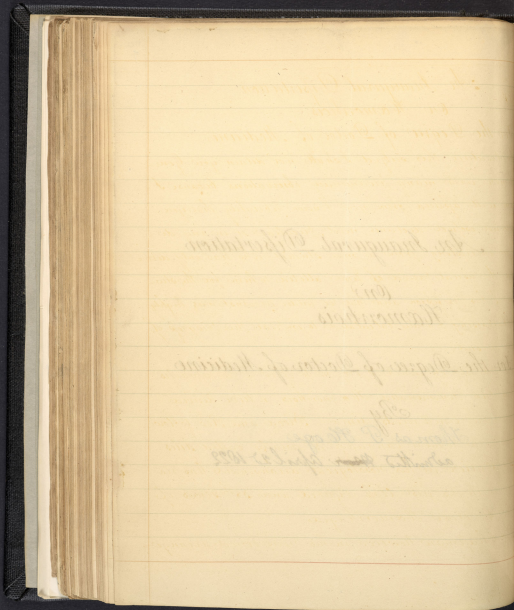
Hamorrhoids

For the Degree of Doctor of Medicine

By

Thomas P. Hoge

admitted ~~Mar~~ April 2^d 1822



An Inaugural Dissertation
On Hemorrhoids.

For the Degree of Doctor of Medicine.

In treating this subject, I shall not detain you Gentlemen with many preliminary observations; because I am well assured from your known liberality that you will not respect doctrines novel, peculiar, or in any degree interesting, from a new student who has only devoted the usual portion of time allotted to him for the study of his profession, and that too under circumstances highly embarrassing, & truly calculated to impede the progress of his pursuits.

The disease, on which I propose to offer a few remarks, has been denominated Hemorrhoids, a term derived from the Greek words Haima Blood and Rho to flow, which in popular language is usually called Piles.

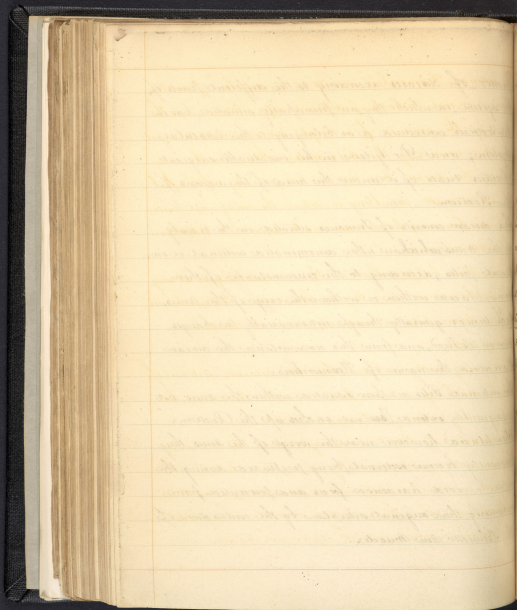
Dr. Cullen in his nosological arrangements has placed it in his first Class Pyrexia and 38th Genus of the 4th order Hemorrhagica.

Dr. Chapman, however, in his more correct arrange-

ments of diseases according to the different parts of the system, in which they are principally situated, has in his lectures considered it as belonging to the Vascular System; and Dr. Wilson in his invaluable surgical Lectures treats of it under the head of the diseases of the Rectum.

This disease consists of Tumours situated in the vicinity of the Anus which are either denominat'd external or internal Piles, according to the circumstance of their being placed within or without the verge of the Anus. Each tumor generally though not invariably discharges maw or lep blood, and from this circumstance the disease has received the name of Hemorrhoids.

The internal Piles or those situated within the Anus not infrequently extend several inches up the Rectum. When placed however near the verge of the Anus, they frequently become external, being protruded during the effort to void hardened feces and prevented from assuming their original situation by the contraction of the Sphincter Anus Muscles.

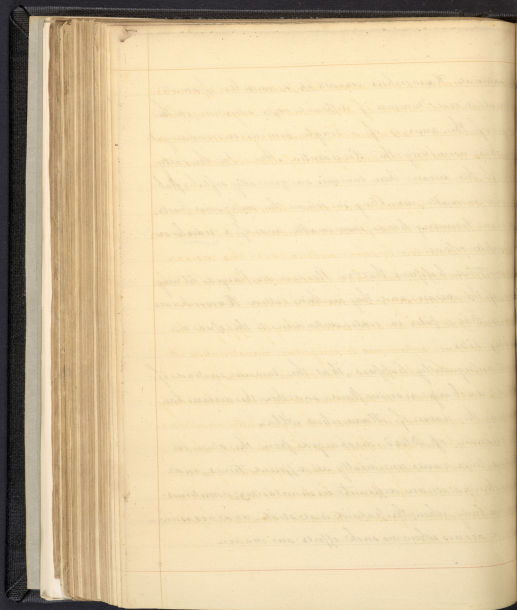


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The external Haemorrhoids consists in a number of small spherical or oval tumours of different sizes, situated on the verge of the anus, or of a single tumour surrounding it somewhat resembling the *Picidentia Ani*. In the early stage of this disease these tumours are generally softish, flabby, and moveable, resembling in colour the contiguous parts, but soon becoming hard, immovable, and of a redish or or purple colour.

It sometimes happens, that no blood is discharged at any stage of the disease, and they are then called Haemorrhoids Cecae or Blind piles in contradistinction to the open or bleeding Piles.

It not unfrequently happens, that the tumours, instead of blood, discharge a serous fluid, and then the disease has in in in the name of Haemorrhoids Albae.

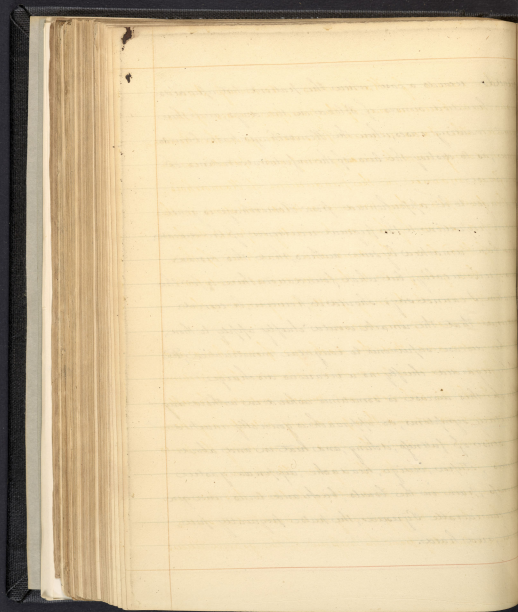
The quantity of blood discharged from the open or bleeding piles varies considerably at different times, and is discharged under different circumstances; sometimes it flows freely, when the patient is at stool, and occasionally it occurs when no such efforts are made.



Scalard records a case, where the patient lost upwards
of an hundred ounces of Blood in two days, and there
are not wanting cases, where the Hemorrhages have been so
profuse, as to destroy the lives of the unfortunate victims of
this disease.

The danger to be apprehended from Hemorrhage is gene-
rally in proportion to the frequent recurrence of the disease.
It has been remarked by some authors, that this disease
occurs periodically; but what foundation there is for the
observation, I cannot say; should it, however, be correct,
I presume that the remark would chiefly apply to those,
where the disease supervenes to irregular menstruation, for
it may be regarded chiefly as a vicarious discharge.

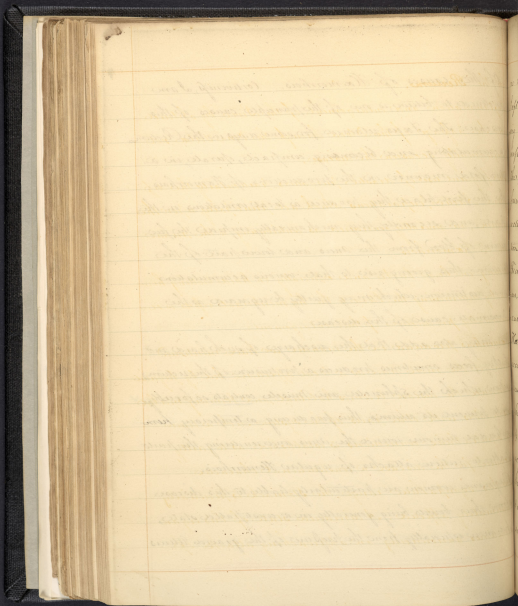
Although this disease is sometimes ushered in without any
premonitory symptoms, its approach is generally marked
by a sense of fullness, itching, and heat in and about
the anus, stiffness, vertigo, headache, dyspnoea, gastric
uneasiness, pain in the breast, back, and loins, and gen-
erally considerable Pyrexia, the pulse frequently full,
quick, and hard.



Of the causes of Haemorrhoids. Continues, I am inclined to believe, is one of the principal causes of this disease. The Faeces retained for some days in the Rectum, accumulating and becoming compact, operate, in a two fold manner in the production of Haemorrhoids. In the first place, they produce a local irritation in the parts, and secondly, they mechanically impede the free return of blood from the anus and lower parts of the rectum, thus giving rise to that venous accumulation and distension, which may justly be regarded as the proximate cause of the disease.

We may also add, that the discharge of such hard and bulky faeces sometimes produces a protrusion of the rectum upon which the Sphincter and Muscles contract so forcibly, as to prevent its return, thus producing a temporary haemorrhoidal tumour round the anus, and rendering the parts liable to future attacks of regular Haemorrhoids.

Pregnant women are particularly liable to this disease from their bowels being generally in a constipated state, but more especially from the pressure of the gravid uterus



in the Rectum. etc.

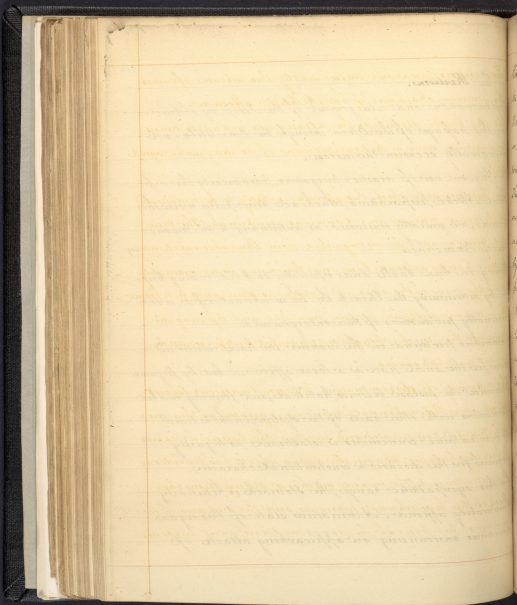
Inflammation and enlargement of the Liver, by obstructing the passage of the Bile through the Vena Portæ, not infrequently occasions the disease.

The frequent use of drastic purgatives, particularly the different Alkaline preparations, which act principally upon the rectum, are generally considered as contributing to the production of hæmorrhoids.

Riding on horse back and especially on hard trotting horses, by determining the blood to the hæmorrhoidal vessels, is occasionally productive of their enlargement.

Hæmorrhoids produce in the manner we have mentioned occurs for the most part as a local affection; but by frequent recurrence the disease becomes habitual, and forming material operations with other parts of the system, such a train of sympathetic connections is established, as to justify a quies for the disease a constitutional character.

In this sympathetic range, the Stomach is peculiarly & intimately affected, A diseased state of this organ sometimes announcing an approaching attack of

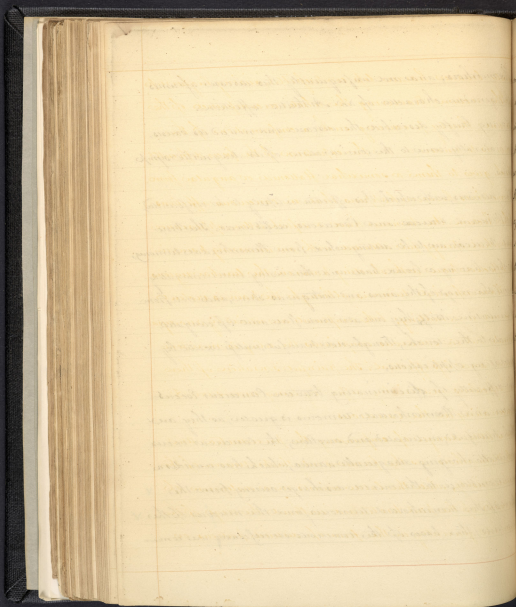


Hæmorrhoids; and not infrequently this disease assumes the genuine character of an Arthritic affection.

Having briefly described the disease and noted its causes, we naturally come to the consideration of its diagnostic symptoms.

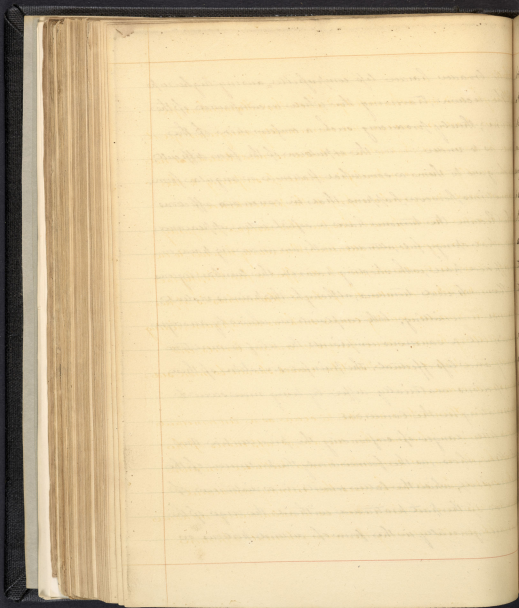
The diseases, with which this affection is likely to be confounded, are Venereal tumours and Cancerous excrescences. The Venereal tumours are to be distinguished from Hæmorrhoidal tumours, by their having a broad base and their rising indiscriminately from the verge of the anus and contiguous skin, and not from the intestine itself; they are also more flat and less elongated, tender to the touch, though, not painful, unless excited by irritating applications.

The difficulty of discriminating between Cancerous excrescences and Hæmorrhoidal tumours is greater, as they are both painful, indurated, and swollen; the Cancerous excrescences discharging a disagreeable sanies, which has considerable resemblance to the mixed discharge arising from the blood of the hæmorrhoidal tumours, and the mucus of the intestines; the bases of the cancerous excrescences are com-



mently broader lower less compressible, arising higher up
in the rectum, traversing the whole circumference of the
intestine, thereby producing such a conformation of the
part as to render the expulsion of the feces difficult,
which gives to them a somewhat flattened or angular form.
It sometimes, however, happens, that in cancerous affections
of the Rectum the tumours have a softish rotten appearance,
some what spongy feel, attended with an increasing pain in
the affected part, with shooting pains in the lumbar regions.
In Hemorrhoidal tumours, although the pain is violent,
it is not unrelenting; both complaints are relieved by an enema;
but in cancerous complaints the relief is more tempo-
rary and less effectual; the painful sensations of these
two affections materially differ, by being more severe &
Lacerating in the Cancerous.

There is little danger of confounding the prociatias and
both Hemorrhoids, as the former is only the protrusion of the
intestine itself, while the latter consists in a distension of
the vessels of the part protruded without the verge of the
anus, and generally in the form of distended pulsations or

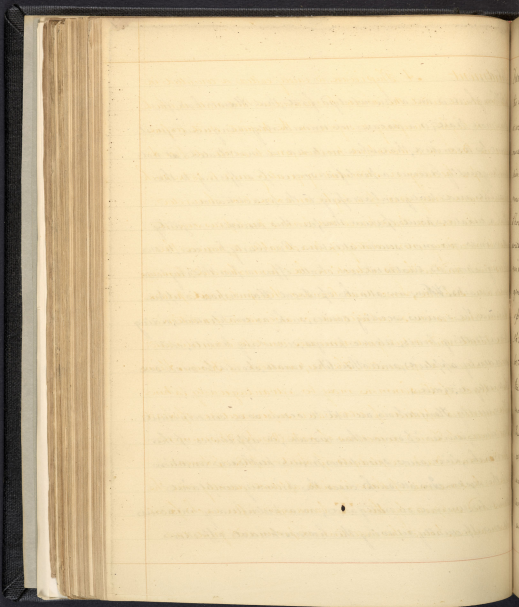


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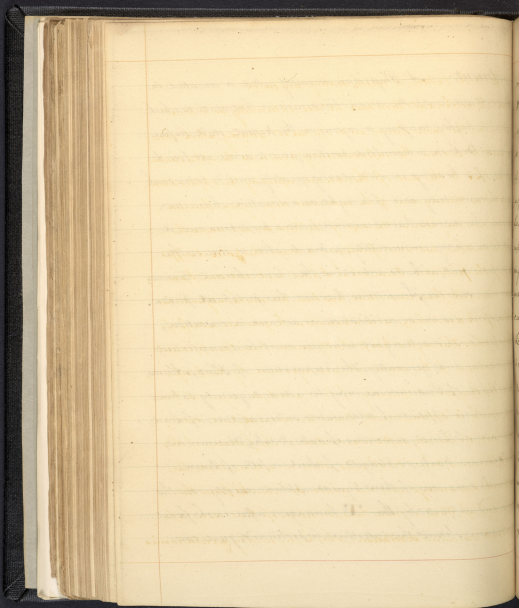
Although it is an acknowledged fact, that Hemorrhoids, for the most part, is a disease not immediately dangerous; yet it must be admitted, that when neglected or mis-treated, it not infrequently becomes a prolific source of suffering to the patient and truly embarrassing to the practitioner.

In a curative point of view therefore this disease justly demands our more serious attention. Previously, however, to entering upon its treatment, we shall offer a few Prophylactic remarks. When an attack of Local Hemorrhoids is apprehended the various exciting causes, such as constipation, riding, hard trotting horses, aloe purges, secretory habits, cold suddenly applied, and other like causes, should be more sedulously avoided.

Frequently Hemorrhoids are apt to occur as a concomitant or consequence of some other disease, or affections of the stomach, liver, &c. sometimes from a ketone condition of the system. In all such cases the primary complaint must be removed or mitigated, as a preliminary measure to one effectually relieving the hemorrhoidal affections.



Treatment A Physician is rarely called a consultant in this complaint, until the disease has arrived at that state, in which it will be highly necessary to enjoin on the patient strict confinement in Bed in a recumbent position, and to arrive at feet & hands of a heating or stimulating quality, and to take such nourishment only as is of a light and laxative character. Should the disease have proceeded from a prolapsus ani, it will be necessary, immediately, if practicable, to reduce the intestine and, with its reduction, the hemorrhoidal Tumour generally subsides. Sometimes, however, the prolapsed portion of intestine is in so debilitated or diseased condition, that local and astringent remedies must be administered both locally and generally. The preparations of Kino, Gum, the extract of Peruvianum, may be advantageously taken, and injections applied of cold water, super acetate of Lead, Sulphate of Lime, decoctions of oak Bark, Peruvianum, or Paracetic Bark, or pledges of Linen or folds of linen wet with some one of these liquids applied directly over the anus and supported by the T bandage; after each fecal evacuation, should the intestine be protruded, gentle



ought to be taken to immediately remove it.

When Hemorrhoidal tumours appear externally as a local affection, the more speedy and efficient remedy, which can be used to subside the inflammatory action, is the application of leeches to the seat of the disease, repeating the application as often as the urgency of the symptoms may require their use. Leeches not only reduce the size of the tumour and remove the inflammation, but tend essentially to relieve the patient suffering of the prostate. From what I have used and seen, I am well convinced, that our country has been too much neglected in care of Hemorrhoids, accompanied with general fulness of the system. This neglect has probably arisen from the apparent local nature of the complaint, accompanied by the belief, that the very small quantity of blood, which, in a general bleeding, would be taken directly from the diseased part itself, could not materially influence its state. The fallacy of this belief, however, must be obvious, when we reflect, that the expected advantage does not result so much from the direct loss of blood, as from the subsidence of that state of general vascular irritation, which frequently accompanies

R Potassa Super Tartari ℥j
Florem Sulphuris ℥j
Vitriatis Potassa ℥ij Misce

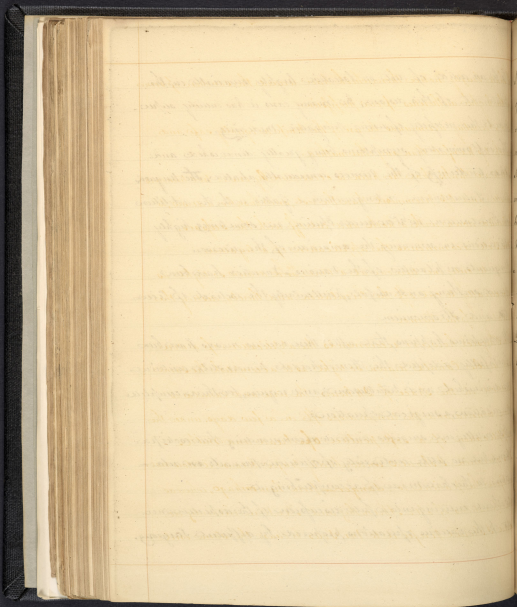
this disease, and which has a direct tendency to determine
the blood to the affected part.

It continues not only to excite the complaint, but necessarily
aggravates & perpetuates it, Purgatives should be employed in
the very commencement of the disease and they should generally
be of the mildest kind, It sometimes however becomes necessary,
in consequence of the obstinately constipated condition of the bow-
els, to use more active medicines, such as Calomel combined
with Rhubarb, Jalap, or Castor Oil. In more cases the Calo-
mel will be found amply sufficient, When the bowels have
been fully emptied of their fecal contents, they may be kept
efficiently open by small & frequently repeated doses of Calo-
mel, which I have found to answer the purpose exceedingly well
in the following formula, Viz:

R. Potass. Sulph. Tartar	ʒi
Haas Sulphuris	ʒi
Mixtur Potass.	ʒij M.

Of which one or two tea spoon fulls may be taken every 3 or 4
hours in the day according to circumstances.

Rose Misk. and Melopos has been found by Dr. Puzosick



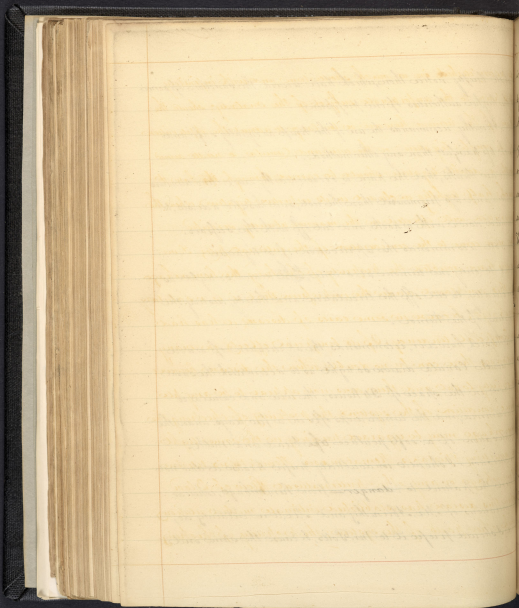
to be an article of diet or lavation highly conducive in the treatment of this disease; In many cases it has entirely superseded the necessity of using purgative medicines.

The inflammatory symptoms being greatly diminished, and the tenderness of the tumors considerably abated, The Unguentum Salicinum or Unguentum e Gallico with the addition of Laudanum or Terebinthine Oil are sometimes highly efficacious in removing the remains of the diseases.

Unguentos or Plasters of the various Aromatic have been found soothing and useful, particularly the extract of Licorice and Stramonium.

It sometimes happens, that after these various means have been faithfully adopted the Hemorrhoidal tumors still continue undiminished and troublesome, and require, for their complete eradication, a surgical operation.

All intelligent surgeons unite in recommending their coexistence but no little contrariety of opinion prevails as to the mode of accomplishing it. Without entering into a full discussion of the respective merits of the various operations proposed by different Surgeons.



I shall briefly notice those, which have received the sanction of some of the highest authorities of our profession.

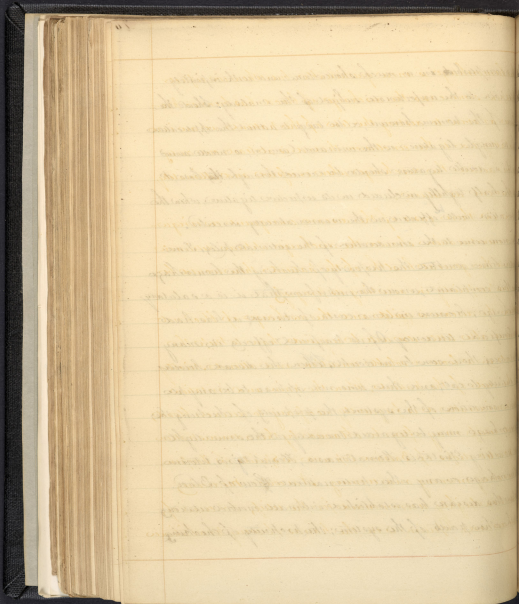
Mr. Abernethy recommends the use of the knife as equally safe, and much less painful than any other method.

Mr. Ware thinks, that the pain is occasioned by one or two tumours smaller and less prominent than the rest, and therefore a device, to be pulled down with a hook and cut off with the scissors.

Mr. Pott recommends the application of a ligature ~~to~~ ^{to be} to only one tumour at a time, ~~and~~ drawn so tight as effectually to cut off the circulation and thereby destroy the vitality of the tumour.

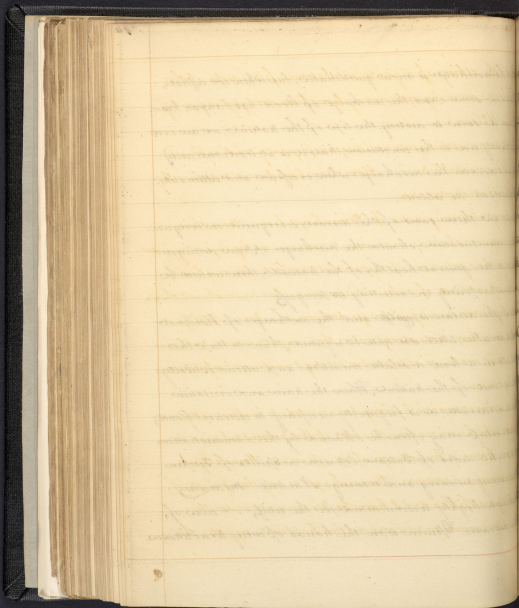
Dr. Sympson, however, recommends the application of a wire and double Canula drawn so tight as to accomplish the same purpose in the space of 24 hours; the wire and canula is then removed, and the tumour drops off in a few days. under the application of a soft poultice of bread and milk.

This operation I should undoubtedly prefer because it does not subject the patient to the danger from hemorrhage, which is the operation of Mr. Abernethy and Mr. Ware certainly do, and I should prefer it to Mr. Pott's, because the same end



is accomplished in a much shorter time, and with infinitely less pain to the unfortunate subject of the malady; Should the base of the tumour, however, be too large to admit the application of a single ligature or the wire and (angula), a needle armed with a double ligature should be carried through ~~the~~ base, & each half tightly included in its respective ligature, when the separation will be effected in the manner already described.

We now come to the consideration of the internal piles. Some writers have doubted the propriety of checking the hemorrhage in this complaint, under the impression, that it is a salutary discharge; because in some cases of disease it has had a beneficial tendency. Of its beneficial effects in many instances there can be no doubt; When the disease however is inciting to eat, and there does not appear to be any pre-
terious condition of the system, the propriety of checking the hemorrhage may be regarded precisely in the same light as arresting Epistaxis, Hematemesis, Hemoptysis, uterine Hemorrhage, or any other puternatural flow of Blood. When this disease has established intimate morbid relations with other parts of the system; the propriety of checking



the hemorrhage is more questionable; but when we reflect, that in some cases, the discharge of blood has been so profuse, as even to destroy the life of the patient, we are irresistably led to the conclusion, that it is at least our duty to moderate the discharge when excessive and ultimately, to prevent its return.

Even in those cases of the disease consequent on irregular menstruation, should the discharge appear dangerous to the general health of the patient, there would be no impropriety in arresting its progress.

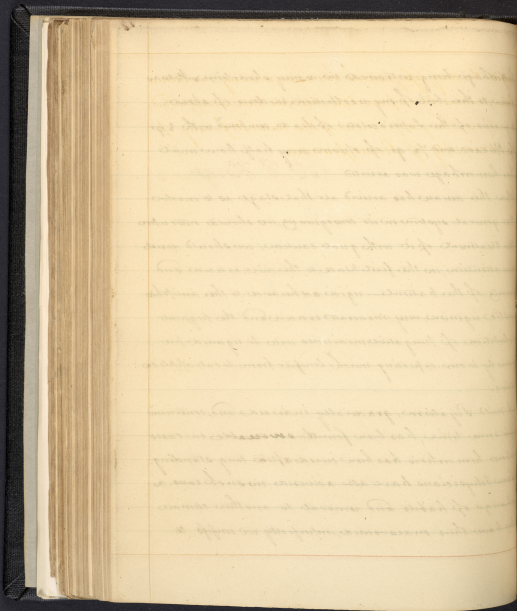
When the disease is profuse, and the discharge of blood not considerable, little else will be required, than to keep the bowels in a loose or soluble condition and attend strictly to the diet of the patient. When the pain and irritation are considerable, it is frequently necessary to attract blood. Great relief may often be obtained by the administration of 50 or 60 drops of Balsam Capivi or Spirits of Turpentine every morning and evening. Narcotic Medicines have been highly recommended for the relief, & I am of this disease, Quin is in the hands of every practitioner,

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and the claims of digitalis in the dose of 35 drops of the
Tincture morning and evening have been strongly urged by
Dr. McLean.

Tonic and Astringent remedies are frequently indicated, and
the Peruvian Bark and Alum have been found to answer the
purpose in most cases.

In very alarming cases of Hemorrhage from Hemorrhoids al-
luring, we should endeavour to restrain it by injecting into
the rectum solutions of Supercarbonate of Lead or Alum,
or the decoctions of oak or Pissiniana bark, or should these
fail, by introducing a large bougie, or a piece of Rag or
sheep intestine tied at one end, then inject into it cold vin
egar and water so as to make strong & uniform pressure on
the rectum.

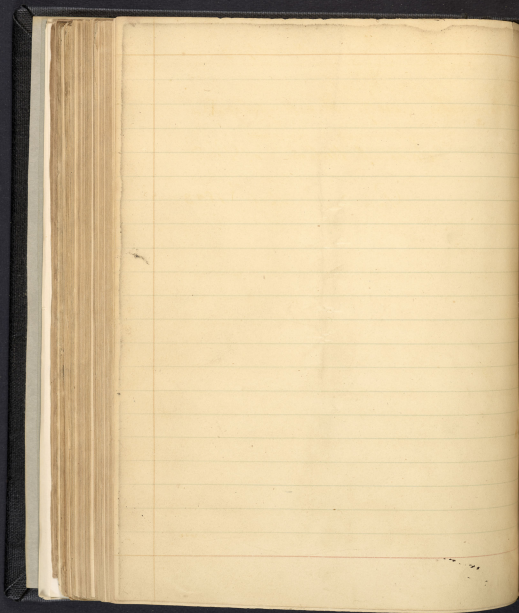
These various means, having been resorted to ineffectually in
a case, which menaced the life of the patient, I was in-
duced from a knowledge of its effects in Hemoptysis
Hæmorrhoids, & uterine Hemorrhage to try the powers of
the Sugar of Lead & I have the pleasure to state, that
the exhalations vented in the happiest results; the



hemorrhage being restrained in a very short time. It was
given, to the best of my recollection, in doses of about
3 grains of the Supracetate of Lead, continued with 4 gr
of Opium and 1/2 gr of Opium very frequently until
the hemorrhage was arrested

When the disease has arrived at that stage as to involve
the general system in its consequences, we should enter upon
the treatment of it with great caution; we should direct
our attention, in the first place, to the diet, exercise and
bowels of the patient—vigilance and assistance to the antiphlo-
gistic regimen, very moderate exercise and the frequent
exhibition of purgative medicines will be required pre-
viously to our expecting much benefit from local applica-
tions.

A mild Pyloric, gradually induced and continued
for some time, has been found ~~incurable~~ in cases
where hemorrhoids has been cured after long standing.
Some Physicians have also advised in such cases, a
change of habits and removal to another climate
We have thus endeavoured, imperfectly we confess, to



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fulfill the duty assigned us done upon receiving our letters
there remains but a faint hope, that we have accomplished
our object, the gratification of the medical faculty of
the University of Pennsylvania

Thos P Hoge

to be my opinion was also among the
main body of the people who were
from the influence of the people of
the people of the people.